

Town of Scituate, Weekly update August 10, 2020

Selectman Anthony Vegnani thanked the Scituate Chamber of Commerce for their efforts in making Heritage Days a success that included three great events: Lawson Tower Bell Concert, Boat Parade and Purple Heart Luminaria. He noted the Scituate Veterans Council helped make Scituate a Purple Heart Community.

Vegnani said the culvert project in Minot is ahead of schedule.

He urged citizens to be careful out on the water noting several recent incidents including a couple of kids in flipped over kayaks on the North River and some paddle boarders who drifted out too far in Humarock. The Harbor Masters office and local citizens helped resolve both incidents safely.

Full outdoor water restrictions are in effect. Residents can water their gardens with a hand-held device but are not allowed to wash their car, boat, water their lawn, or fill their pool. About 100 fines have been levied so far on those who continue to water their lawns.

Vegnani said the recent spike of brown water complaints is due to manganese being stirred up in the town reservoir caused by an increase in water temperature. The town uses roughly two million gallons of water a day: One million is clean well water and one million from the reservoir. The water from the reservoir is sent through the treatment plant that does not have the ability to remove the manganese. A plan has been submitted to the DEP to resolve this issue. The reservoir is currently at 57 percent.

NSRWA has a video online that provides a good understanding what is going with the water supply, he said.

Board of Health Director Drew Scheele reported that Scituate has three new COVID-19 cases making a total of four in town. Two were

scheduled to come off isolation Aug. 10. That would leave two cases under isolation. He noted Governor Baker has rolled back some restrictions including limiting outdoor gatherings to 50 people. He reminded everyone to wear their masks, practice social distancing and good hygiene. With those simple steps, COVID spread can be stopped until a vaccine is available, he said.

Supt. of Schools William Burkhead said the first day of school for teachers is Aug. 31; first day for most students is Sept. 16; Kindergarten is Sept. 17 and preschool, Sept. 21.

The 63-page comprehensive school reopening plan is on the school website. Burkhead said the plan process has been transparent and inclusive. He said school principals will meet with families this week to discuss the plan in detail. The final draft of the plan has to be submitted to the Dept. of Education on Friday but he stressed there would still be flexibility and room for improvement.